

Region 1 2015 “Volunteers Working with Invasives” Proposal

National Wildlife Refuge(s): Ridgefield NWR

Name of Project: Invasive Plant Targeted Control and ED/RR

Contact Person(s): Lynn Cornelius, Friends of Ridgefield NWR

Total amount requested: \$15,000

Project Description (20 Points): The proposed project is a part of the Refuge invasive species management program and will help achieve goals and priority habitats identified in the Refuge CCP. The project will conduct **ED/RR surveys** over 1,500 acres focusing on known species occurrences and those on the southwest Washington/Willamette Valley watch lists. **Control** will be focused primarily on those species which currently pose the greatest challenges or are not yet under desired levels of control: Ricefield bulrush, shiny geranium, yellow flag iris, slenderflower thistle, water primrose willow, fragrant water lily, and poison hemlock. Other target species will be treated as opportunity or time permits. All funds would be obligated in FY 15. Most (83%) of the work will take place in FY 15 except for control work on shiny geranium (17 %) which would take place during the dormant season Nov-March in FY 16 to reduce impacts to non-target species.

Invasive Species Prevention: ED/RR searches under this project will catch and treat new invasions as early as possible to prevent establishment and limit spread.

Invasive Species Control through Treatment and/or Restoration: Control will focus on the most challenging or threatening priority species and on areas for other species not yet under desired control levels which have not been treated recently or in sites that are difficult to access.

Invasive Species Inventory, Surveillance, and/or Monitoring: 1,500 acres will be searched including areas difficult to access, by canoe and on foot.

Friends Groups and other Volunteers (10 Points): This project will be directed by the FRNWR Habitat Restoration Coordinator. A Seasonal Bulrush Field Leader will direct the bulrush search and digging project with some AmeriCorps member help. Volunteers as crews, trained plant hunters, and applicators will search, map, dig, and spray invasives by boat, ATV, and on foot. Refuge and community volunteers are expected to contribute 100 visits for more than 350 hours.

Other Partners (10 Points): Information and efforts will be shared with Clark County Vegetation Management, the State of Washington (DNR and WDFW), and 5 private landowners, all in the Ridgefield Columbia Floodplain Cooperative WMA formed in 2011. Some work will occur on private land adjacent to the Refuge, as water levels permit.

Criteria for Project Success (10 Points): Approximately 145 acres containing target invasive plants will be spot treated: 70 acres through pulling with volunteer crews and 75 acres by herbicide treatment. 1500 acres will be searched under ED/RR. 3 bulrush wetlands will be disked to continue the seed bank depletion strategy.

Budget:

Salaries and Benefits: Habitat Restoration Coordinator July-Sep FY 15	\$4,500
Salaries and Benefits: Habitat Restoration Coordinator Oct – Mar FY 16	2,500
Salaries and Benefits: Seasonal Bulrush Field Leader June-Sept FY15	8,000
TOTAL requested:	\$15,000
Other Contributions:	
Refuge support: Vehicles, fuel, PPE, herbicide, applicator training.	1,000
Refuge Youth Funding: AmeriCorps position cost 1 mo \$500; Bio Tech seasonal position 8 weeks @ 50% - \$2,200;	2,700
Friends RNWR overhead @ 4% - \$600; volunteer supplies \$700	1,300
Volunteer labor (estimated 350 hours)	8,000
Other Contributions Total:	\$13,000

2/17/15